

A
TRUE NARRATIVE
CONCERNING THE AR-
mies preservation of the Kings
Majesties Person.

BY
WHICH IT DOTH APPEARE
that the Army doth intend the
Good, Life, Propriety, and Liberty of
all the Commons of *England*, and not
the destruction of them.

*Printed by order from the Army, for the taking off
those aspersions which hath been cast upon them for
that action.*



LONDON, Printed for John Benson, and are to
be sold at his shop in *Chancery Lane*, neare the
Rowles, 1647.

TRAVE MARRIAGE
CONCERNING THE AR-

... is a publication of the ...

... ..

BY

WILLIAM DOSE, JR.

... ..

... ..



A true impartiall Narration, concerning the Armies preservation of the King ; by which it doth appear, that the Army doth intend the Good, Life, Property, and Liberty, of all the Commons of England.



Ellow Commoners, considering with our selves how variously those men will report, that endeavour to carrie on their designs, though it be to the ruine and the destruction of others, who are their Fellow-Commoners, and have as just a right and propriety to the liberties and freedoms of the Nation as themselves: & considering also how misinformation may seduce you, and draw you away from the knowing of things in their true unmixt nature; and consequently from acting and walking accordingly; so that not only our selves may be drawn by such misrepresentations of things into unexpressible extraordinary sadneses, miseries and calamities, but also you, into perpetuall irrecoverable servitude and bondage, even in a moment of time, before you, or we are aware of: And also considering that certain of the House of Commons have sold the record of *Magna Charta*, (which doth demonstrate the Subjects rights, liberties and proprieties)

prieties) for 100000, l. so that it might never be used again, as we can (we hope) evidently prove; so that by it you may see their designe. Therefore, we (who have fought for you in the fight of the Sun, and for your liberties and proprieties, as well as our owne) and have been faithfull to you in the apprehensions of all rationall men, and those that will not lie against their own souls, or walk contrary to the Testimony of their own Consciences) cannot choole but with reciprocal tenderneſſe present unto you truly, briefly, and clearly, without partiality the nature of the businesse concerning the Kings Maieſty, and us at Holdenby, Iune the 4. 1647.

On Wednesday, Coronet Ioyce, went to the bowling green where his Maieſtie was at bowls within a mile of Holdenby; the cause of the Coronets being there, was to prevent the Kings being conveyed away in a secret manner, which was iustly suspected, to be done by some that were with his Maieſty. Coronet Ioyce, an appointed agent by the Army, observing a sudden alteration in perswading the King to goe to my Lord Spencers to bowls, when the King had resolved before to goe two miles further; and at the Kings taking horse, Colonel Graves, and a Scottish Lord whispered, and were more then ordinary earnest in their privacie, which did occasion jealousie at that opportunity. After the King had been at bowls one houre, Graves questioned a Soldier, and asked him from whence he came; The Soldiers answer was, from Oxford, and that he had been lately with the Army: Then Graves asked, if the Army was not contented with the Ordinance of Indempnitie, and the votes of Parliament: the Soldier answered, No, and that it would in no way secure them, and gave Graves a reason, because many of their fellow Soldiers, and those that acted for the Parliament, were molested notwithstanding it: & what a sad thing will it be to consider, that the Soldery shall tast of the Parliament Iudges cruelty notwithstanding their good services, and the preserving

serviſing of the heads of ſome men in the Parliam. And therefore judge how much below the light of nature theſe men live, & how much they exerciſe themſelves in tyranny, when they will not do good unto thoſe that do good unto them. Then Graves asked him more newes, and ſaid, he need not be afraid; But he ſaid, he was not afraid of him, or any man in the Kingdom, for he had done nothing that he knew of to make him afraid; & he further ſaid, he would deal ingeniouſly with him, and tell him the truth in any thing he ſhould aſke him. Then Graves asked, if he did not hear of a party of horſe, he answered, he did more then hear of a party, for he ſaw them the day before within thirty miles of Holdenby: this made Graves tremble as if he had been guilty of ſomething he had done or intended to do, otherwiſe why ſhould he afterwards, and the Scottiſh Lord his Confederate have run away, when no man intended to doe them the leaſt hurt in the world. But the Scottiſh Lord went to *London*, & hath notoriously wronged the King, and the party alſo that did ſecure his Majeſties perſon for the peace and ſafety of the kingdom, as was declared at large before a thouſand witneſſes; ſo that by it you may ſee the deſign of a cunning Scot, & what ſuch will do to get money end honour, even againſt King and people.

Further for the ſecurity of the Kings perſon, the party marched towards Holdenby, and when they came to the Houſe the Commiſſioners ſent one Cap. *Middleton* to know of us what we came for, & what we would have, & who commanded? answer was made him, All did command, and yet were under command. Then Captain *Middleton* replied, if you have any thing to doe here, the Commiſſioners would know what it is, and deſired that they would ſend into the Commiſſioners, one or more, to certifie what was the intent of coming thither.

Whereupon Cor. *Joyce*, by unanimous conſent of the party, went in to the Commiſſioners and told them the truth of the

their coming thither, which was to secure his Maj. person, and to protect them, there being a secret design as they were informed, to to convey or steal away the King, & to raise another Army to suppress this under his Excellency *S. Tho. Fairfax*: Likewise, he said, he knew no other way to keep this Kingdom from blood, or another war, but by the present security of the Kings person, & that he may be no more misled; and if he were, that the Kingdom were utterly undone for ever: If this be all said the Commissioners, it is well done.

But after it, Coroner Ioyce spake more to the Commissioners, and told them, he did humbly conceive, that there were some who did delay justice, and seek only to disband the Army, who were raised for the defence of the just rights, proprieties, and liberties of the Subject, and the bringing of all unjust men to condigne punishment; such who did endeavour to subvert the fundamentall lawes of the Kingdom; and he said, he did believe that there were some who did endeavour to pull down King and people, and to set up themselves; and who they were the Commissioners and the world may judge and see by their actions.

Whereupon he tooke his leave of the Commissioners for a while lest the King should be disturbed in his Bed-chamber. Then Major Gen. Brown went to the King, & did assure his Majestie of the truth of the businesse, and desired his Majestie not to be troubled, for no hurt would come unto him, for they were all true Gentlemen, and that his Majestie should find it so. After this was done, the Coroner went to the Commissioners again, and desired them to give him Orders, he being willing to obey them, because they were appointed by the Parliament to be there to that end: Then Major-Generall Browne said, Come again by and by and we will give you Orders, in the meane time set your Guard, and place your Centinells, which directions of his we followed, & told him and the rest of the Commissioners

if

if they would give us orders I would obey them, provided they were just, and for the security of the Kings person. All this being done it grew towards noon: After that Coroner Ioyce desired the soldiers to mount to horse, and told them they should all goe to quarters, at which word of command all was done, & the said Coroner was to give in a relation to the Commissioners of his coming, and the grounds in writing, & did; but because of the multiplicity of business, could not give it in that form as otherwise he might if he had had time.

All this being done, all was quiet in the said present security of his Majestie, untill tidings came that Graves was gone quite away, and thereupon it was supposed he was (and thought himselfe also) guilty, or else he would have stayed; but none could tell what was become of him: and some of his damming blades did say and swear, they would fetch a party, which party could not be from the Army, but must be from some other place; and therefore to prevent disturbance and blood, and for the peace sake of the Kingdome, all declared unanimously, that they thought it most convenient to secure the King in another place, from such persons as should cunningly or desperately take him away contrary to order, which was endeavoured very earnestly (as we are informed) by some that are enemies to the peace of the kingdome, and the prosperity of the Army. But another cause of jealousy was, not knowing the resolutions of those who quartered soldiers, and pretended for Ireland.

And further to give all satisfaction to the whole kingdom, and to the real effecting of a business of such concernment, the soldiers sent Coroner Ioyce to the Commissioners at ten of the clock at night, who desired the Commissi. to let the King know he would speak with him; some of the Commissioners being unwilling, held the Coroner in discourse about halfe an houre, untill the King was asleep in his bed; yet notwithstanding.

standing the said Coroner could not be contented till he had spoken with the King, it being the only way, and meanes to prevent trouble for the future, and blood that might come upon the face of the Kingdome, and therefore the said Cor. iudged it in his own conscience requisite to speak with him at that opportunity, and therefore he offered the Commissioners to go with them with as much gentlenesse and tender- nesse as he could, to tell his Majestie something for his and the Kingdoms good; which was to take him from thence, ther being a secret design to steal and convey away his Majesties person, to side with some who pretend justice and deceive the Kingdom, and obstruct the relief of poor distressed *Ire- land*, intending to break the Army in pieces now under the command of Sir *Thomas Fairfax* our Generall, and to raise another Army to carry on their design; and that all rational men may see it by the actions of some men, (as *Stapleton, Glinn, Green, Earle*, and others) who said, Its now come to that, that they must sink us, or we must sink them. Much more was spoken by the said Coroner. But this in brief: he was willing to let all passe without giving a relation, untill he heard that the Scottish Lord had falsely told the Parliament of our proceedings with the King, who saw or heard it not: for he was not within a mile of the Court when all these forementioned passages were; for the Scottish Lord as we are informed, reported, that the King was taken away against his will: For although the King told Coroner Ioyce before the Commissioners, he was unwilling to goe with us; yet he said, That such reasons might be produced that might prevaile with him, and then he did protest nothing should stay him but he would goe, whether the Commissioners would yet, or no. And reasons were given accordingly, which did prevail with his Majesty to promise to go the next morning, and he gave a confirmation of his willing- nesse, by saying to the Coroner, He should be the more wil-
ling

ling to go if the Coronet would promise him some things which he should propound; The Coronet said; He would, if they were just and warrantable in his understanding, and desired his Majesty that he might hear the things. Then his Majesty spake before the Commissioners, & said, Master Joyce, We have this to propound unto you. May it please your Majesty we are willing to hear, said Coronet Joyce; but are sorry we have disturbed you out of your sleep: but the King said, No matter, no matter, if you mean us no hurt; and then spake, viz. If you will promise Us that We shal have no hurt; saying, You may take away Our life if you wil, having the sword in your hands. This answer the Coronet made, That the Parliament had declared to preserve his Majesties person, and that they being the Parliaments Army, should not but endeavour the same; onely they did desire to secure him from being taken away: lest he should be set at the head of another Army, and so this Kingdome involved into danger. And all this was said in answer to his Majesties first Proposition, The second was, That he would not be forced to any thing against his conscience by us. He answered, that he would be unwilling to force any man against his conscience, much lesse his Majesty; and also said, That he hoped he was sensible of those that did endeavour to observe none will force men against their consciences, and yet de- oppose this Army, but guilty consciences, and they will fly in our faces, which they were sent; and did endeavour to will fly in our faces, or raise an Army against us, who disband or break this Army in pieces, who sought nothing but justice, as will appear here- after to all the world; Pray God it may, said the King.

Thirdly. He demanded whether yea or no he should have his servants with him, and whether he should be provided for like a man in his place, and that he had been courteously used by those Commissioners that were with him, as ever he was by any. The Coronet answered, That he should endeavour as farre as

in him lay, to shew him all just and due respect; And that he might be no otherwise attended on then before, the Coroner desired the Commissioners of Parliament to go with the King and discharge that trust imposed on them; So the soldiery of the Army would assill them so long as they were just and honest; Then said the King, We will willingly go along with you, if the souldiers will confirm what you have promised me; the King beleevng we had said nothing, but what we would stand to; All this being spoken at ten or eleven at night; And when the King had done propounding these questions to the Coroner, he gave his word to be ready by six the next morning, at least if the souldiers would confirm what he had promised; and if they would, he would willingly go with us; for it was so bad an aire that he could never be so well as he had been, and if he were once gone he would be unwilling to come back again to that place any more; many other reasons he had which he gave not. According to his promise he came in the morning at six of the clock; where he found all the souldiers ready mounted to march with him; but before he would march, he desired to speak the same things to the souldiers which he spake over night to the Coroner, to see if they would confirm what he said and had promised; which they did with one consent; and before the souldiers, the King was pleased to ask the Coroner, What Commission he had to secure his Person? then said the Coroner, If the Parliament had ever made an order, that the army should not have secured the Kings Person, we should not have dared to do what we had done; But we being informed his Majesty was to be conveyed away, which if not prevented might have caused another warre, and involved the whole Kingdom in blood again; this was the onely cause of our securing the Kings Person; This answer did not satisfie the King, but he asked, What Commission he had for doing that he did? he told his Majesty, the soldiery of the Army, or else he should not have dared

said up his sword what he had: and conceived it to be the only
 way to bring peace to England, and Justice with Mercy: which
 is the thing which all honest men do desire, and obtrude with-
 der but some guilty Conscience, who by their wilfull
 to destroy both King and people, to sit up themselves: Yet
 the King was not satisfied with this, but asked Whether we had
 nothing in writing from Sir Thomas Fairfax our General, to do
 what we did the Coronet desired the King he should not ask him
 such Questions: for he did conceive he had sufficiently answered
 him before: then said the King, I pray M^r Joyce deal ingenuously
 with me, and tel me what Commission you have: The Co-
 ronet's answer was, Here, is my Commission: Where, said the
 King? He answered, Here, his Majesty again asked, Where? He
 answered, Behind me, and desired his Majesty what that might
 satisfy him: whereupon the King smiled; and said, It is as
 said a Commission, and as well written as he had seen: Com-
 mission written in his life: A company of handsome proper
 Gentlemen as he had seen a great while: But what if we should
 yet refuse to go with you. I hope you would not force me: I am
 your King, and you ought not to lay violent hands on your King:
 for We do acknowledge none to be above us here, but God:
 Then said M. Joyce, Our desires are not to loose your Majesty,
 but have humbly intreated your Majesty to go with us, and not
 only your self, but the Commissioners: and to this end, that
 the Commissioners might discharge that trust imposed on them
 as honest members of Parliament. Then spake one of the Com-
 missioners of Parliament and shewed us a paper, what was there-
 in written that they all spake to us in order, the last that spake,
 as we remember, was Major General Browne, who said the
 Commissioners had an order of Parliament to take to the King
 at Holdenby; and if he had strength we should have had his
 life before we should have brought the King away: Instead of
 the Coronet, you speak like a faithfull and gallant man: but he

Hon.

B 2

knew

knew wel enough he had not strength, and therefore he spake so boldly. Major G. Brown said further, But since it is so, We must do what you wil have us, being not able to resist you. Then spake Coroner Joyce further, We came not to have the blood of any man, but for peace; and did hope should manifest it to all the world, for he sought peace with all men as much as in him lieth; and further he said, They were servants to the Parliamente and Kingdome, and had served them faithfully ever since the beginning of this war, or else more heads had been cut off before this time; and if the souldiers had been ordered, not to secure his Majesty, they would not have dared to have done it, because they were servants to the State as well as the Commissioners; they did what they did to keep the Kingdom from blood and a second war, which if not prevented, might unhappily have come upon us suddenly; as you may see is the endeavour of some men, who pretend to be the Kings, and Kingdoms best friends. After this, the King was going away, but turned and said, Now Gentlemen, for the place you intend to have me to

M. Joyce answered, If it please your Majesty to Oxford.

The King replied, That is no good aire.

M. Joyce said, Then to Cambridge.

The King did not like that, but said he liked New-market. It was an aire that did very wel agree with him.

And it was granted by M. Joyce he should go thither.

Then the King asked M. Joyce, How far he intended to ride that night.

And M. Joyce answered and said, As far as your Majesty can conveniently ride.

The King smiling said, We can ride as far as you, or any man there; but he concluded to talk of that, and his accommodation privately; and so he courteously took his leave of the company, and was going, and one whispered him, and he turned

ned back, and heard the Commissioners speak to the company thus in order: First, my Lord Mountague spake, and said: Gentlemen, we are intrusted by both Houses (shewing in his hand a paper, the authority they had) and desire to know whether all the party do agree to what M. Joyce had said.

And they cryed, All, All.

And he having spoke low, Sir John Cook seconded him with a loud voyce, and added, That as the Parliament, had intrusted them, had he but Forces to withstand the party, he would have done it with his life; and M. Crew said the same.

And Major G. Brown spake last to the same purpose, but added something more then the rest; saying, It was not the first time that he had been in the head of a party, and that they knew not the Law; and he durst affirm, that scarce two in the company, although they cryed, All, All, knew what the Gentleman had delivered to the King. And therefore he said with a loud voyce, All that are willing the King shall stay with us, the Commissioners of Parliament, let them speak. And all the party cryed None, None, then said he, we have done. Only the souldiers said, We understand well enough what we do. Now let all the world judge what is done, and who is in fault, and who they are that seek warr, and no peace nor justice.

FIN IS.

With the Earle of Essex and Fellow-Commoners, With the Souldiers
and Under his Excellency Sir Thomas Fairfax do desire to
speak one word to you All, that so you may see and know our
very hearts so far as we know them our selves: And that our
earnest desires are for Peace in this our Native Land and King-
dome, and being more sensible then many thousands are, how
destructive another War will be, if not our utter ruine and un-
doing: The words we shall speak to you need present Wars;
and to find our moles that have of late seen that Scottish Lord
who went from Holmby to London, and from thence into
France, and another Scotch Lord into Scotland, all this to bring
another Army to England: and we shall be able to make it ap-
pear to you hereafter, that we the child A Consideration Dear
Friends, and Fellow-Commoners, let us not be like those who
have set their hands to the Plough and took back; but let it ap-
pear to all the World we are against another Warre, and for
Peace, Mercy, and Justice, without delay: Now look about you
and be not deluded any longer: tell the Scourge of the Kingdom
more money, and others oppress the Kingdome, and put the
Kingdoms Treasure into their own pockets, or send it out of our
Kingdome, as if they were preparing to go after, for sure they
should be found out. This we speak that so you may have a care
of this Glorious Kingdome; your Shipping being now in those
mens hands who have done you most wrong; and if not looked
after by you, may suddenly let in a forrein Enemy to overrun
you all, and ravish your Wives, and roste your Children alive,
as those bloody minded men in Ireland have done; and this will
be our case if you awake not suddenly. We have done, a word
to the wise is sufficient: and rest

*Yours and the Kingdomes faithfull servants
till death, for Englands Liberty,
against Tyranny, &c.*

